

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MADRID
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03568

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 18, 1977:
AGENDA ITEM IVC: INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY
COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO

REF: C-M(77)27(REVISED) WITH CORRIGENDUM
1. THE CHAIRMAN (PANSA, ACTING IN ABSENCE OF LUNS) INTRODUCED THE REFERENCED REPORT, COMMENTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT, MENTIONING THAT THE NAC NOTED THE REPORT IN ITS MEETING LAST WEEK, AND URGING THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS AGREE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT.

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2. SECRETARY BROWN MADE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE REPORT BUT EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CONCLUSIONS WHICH PROVIDE HOPE FOR FULL INTEROPERABILITY ONLY AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE IS INCOMPATIBLE NATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND THE ONLY WAY AROUND IT SEEMS TO BE A COMMON-FUNDED, CENTRALLY MANAGED PROGRAM. SUCH A PROGRAM COULD

INVOLVE:

- A. ADOPTING STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SUB-SYSTEMS AS AGREED BY NATO AND EUROCOM, WITH THE CURRENT EUROCOM EFFORT TURNED OVER TO NICSMA FOR IMPLEMENTATION.
- B. AGREEING TO CONSIDER COMMON FUNDING AND SHARING DEVELOPMENT OF A TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.
- C. EXPANDING NICSMA TO INCLUDE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.
- D. PROVIDING NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF FUNDS PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED, WITH NATIONS SHARING IN SUB-SYSTEMS.

HE STATED THAT THE US IS WILLING, IN CONCERT WITH OUR ALLIES, TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF THIS APPROACH, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT ITS ADOPTION MIGHT HAVE ON THE US TRI-TAC PROGRAM. HE URGED ALLIES, IN THE INTERIM, TO ACCELERATE FIELDING OF INTERFACE DEVICES TO IMPROVE SHORT-TERM INTEROPERABILITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTERS ASK THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO INVESTIGATE THE SUGGESTED APPROACH IN DETAIL OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN EARLY PLAN OF ACTION. THE SECRETARY TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IT IS "LATE IN THE DAY" TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A LARGE STEP, BUT IF THE ALLIES DO NOT TAKE IT NOW, WE MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY FOR 10 TO 15 YEARS.

3. THE UK AND GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTERS STATED STRONG
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SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S PROPOSAL. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE DPC MAY ASK THE CNAD OR THE INTEROPERABILITY WORKING GROUP (I.E., AC/270-WG/1) TO DO THE PRELIMINARY WORK, A COURSE HAVING THE ADVANTAGE OF INVOLVING FRANCE. MOD LEBER COMMENTED THAT HE COULD NOT SAY WHICH GROUP IS QUALIFIED, BUT PERHAPS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD ASSIST.

4. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO NOTE THE REPORT AND TO TASK THEIR PERMREPS TO LOOK INTO THE APPROACH AS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY BROWN.BENNETT

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